

CLAIMS:

1. A receiver (17, 18, 19, 20, 21) for receiving information data (RD) from information servers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) connected with a data network (NET), having information retrieval means (22, 23) for retrieving information data (RD) from one of the information servers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) identified by data network addresses and having
5 receiving means (22) for receiving the retrieved information data (RD) from the information server (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) and having
quality testing means (26) for testing the quality of the received information data (RD) and for outputting quality information (QI),
characterized in that feedback means (27) are provided, which are designed to
10 output feedback information (FI) to one of the information servers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5), wherein the feedback information (FI) contains the quality information (QI) and connection information (VI) identifying the link between the receiver (17, 18, 19, 20, 21) and the data network (NET).

15 2. A receiver (17, 18, 19, 20, 21) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the feedback means (27) are designed to output feedback information (FI) to the information server (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) from which the information data (RD) were retrieved.

3. A receiver (17, 18, 19, 20, 21) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the
20 information retrieval means (22, 23) are designed to retrieve overview information (UEI) from an overview information server (5) connected to the data network (NET), wherein the overview information (UEI) identifies information servers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) and information data (RD) retrievable from these information servers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5), and in that the feedback means (27) are designed to output the feedback information (FI) to the overview information server
25 (5).

4. A receiver (17, 18, 19, 20, 21) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the connection information (VI) output by the feedback means (27) identifies the service
30 provider (13, 14, 15, 16) over which the receiver (17, 18, 19, 20, 21) is connected with the data network (NET).

5. A receiver (17, 18, 19, 20, 21) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the quality information (QI) output by the feedback means (27) identifies the bandwidth, the average bit rate received and/or the actual profile of the bit rate of the received information data (RD).

6. A receiver (17, 18, 19, 20, 21) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the feedback means (27) are designed to output feedback information (FI) only when the quality information (QI) identifies a quality of received information data (RD) which is below a quality threshold.

7. A receiver (17, 18, 19, 20, 21) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the feedback means (27) are designed to set up an alternative data connection to the information server (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) and to output the feedback information (FI) to the information server (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) over this alternative data connection if it has proved impossible to set up a data connection to the information server (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) over the data network (NET).

8. A receiver (17, 18, 19, 20, 21) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that transmission path detection means (23) are provided, which are designed to detect the transmission path selected for transmission from the information server (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) to the receiver (17, 18, 19, 20, 21) and to output the thus detected connection information (VI) to the feedback means (27).

9. A receiving method for generating feedback information (FI), having a receiver (17, 18, 19, 20, 21), connected with a data network (NET), for an information server (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) connected with the data network (NET), the following steps being executed:

retrieval of the information data (RD) from one of the information servers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) identified by data network addresses and

reception of the retrieved information data (RD) from the information server (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) and

testing of the quality of the received information data (RD) and outputting of quality information (QI),

characterized in that feedback information (FI) is output to one of the information servers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5), wherein the feedback information (FI) contains the quality

information (QI) and connection information (VI) identifying the link between the receiver (17, 18, 19, 20, 21) and the data network (NET).

10. A receiving method as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the feedback information (FI) is output to the information server (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) from which the information data (RD) were retrieved.

11. A receiving method as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that overview information (UEI) is retrieved from an overview information server (5) connected to the data network (NET), wherein the overview information (UEI) identifies information servers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) and information data (RD) retrievable from these information servers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5), and in that the feedback information (FI) relating to the retrieved information data (RD) is output to the overview information server (5).

12. An overview information server (5) for outputting overview information (UEI) to a receiver (17, 18, 19, 20, 21) connected over a data network (NET), wherein the overview information (UEI) identifies information servers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) and information data (RD) retrievable from these information servers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) with the receiver (17, 18, 19, 20, 21), said overview information server having

receiving means (6) for receiving query information (AI) from a receiver (17, 18, 19, 20, 21) for retrieving the overview information (UEI) and having memory means (8) for storing the overview information (UEI) and having transmitting means (6) for transmitting the stored overview information (UEI) to the retrieving receiver (17, 18, 19, 20, 21),

characterized in that the receiving means (6) are designed to receive feedback information (FI) containing quality information (QI) and connection information (VI), wherein the quality information (QI) identifies the quality of the information data (RD) received by the receiver (17, 18, 19, 20, 21) from one of the information servers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) and the connection information (VI) identifies the link between the receiver (17, 18, 19, 20, 21) and the data network (NET).

13. An overview information server (5) as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that evaluation means (7) are provided for evaluating the received feedback information (FI) and outputting fault report information which identifies those parts of the data network

(NET) which are responsible for poor quality information data (RD) received by the receivers (17, 18, 19, 20, 21).

14. An overview information server (5) as claimed in claim 13, characterized in
5 that the transmitting means (6) are designed to output the fault report information to service providers (13, 14, 15, 16) so as to improve the quality of the information data (RD) received by the receivers (17, 18, 19, 20, 21).